

gladly make good.

Again apologizing for this
liberty,

I am very respectfully

W. Backhouse

P.S. Perhaps I may say that I
am well known to Prof. Oliver
of New, & to some extent to
Dr. Hooker.

For R 11/4 mo 1870

Prof. Gray

pray pardon the liberty
I am taking in venturing to address
a person to whom I am entirely
unknown. For several years
past I have attempted to
obtain seeds or ^{living} plants of
2 species of *Silene* & 2 of *Lithos-
spermum* which are natives of
the United States, & which I
feel certain, by the descriptions
given of them in the "Manual",
must be very gay plants, well
worthy of cultivation. I have
failed in every instance, in
fact have never yet found
any one who knew that there
were such plants in existence!
One party tells me that he
knows nothing of them, & can

do nothing, but that if I will
"write to so & so, no doubt he
will", & so forth; but it is
all unavailing.

Consequently, as a last resource
- short of sending a person
to America to seek them! -
I venture to ask whether
from your Botanic Gardens
I could be supplied with
seeds, or two or three good
healthy roots of:

Silene regia (Linn)

Silene rotundifolia (Nutt.)

Lithospermum hirtellum (Lchm)

Lithosp^m. longiflorum (Spreng)

I have a very rich living col-
lection of hardy perennials, &
especially of alpine plants, -
- perhaps scarcely equalled in

this country, I should be most
happy to send several which
I feel certain would be both
new to horticulturists in Amer-
-ica, & regarded as plants of
great beauty. Or, if the ad-
dress of any one residing in
the district where any of these
plants are found (I who knows
them) could be sent to me, I
should regard it as a great
favour. I feel satisfied that
if I had two or three establish-
ed plants of each of these, I
could soon obtain seed so as
to increase them. Lithosp^m. ca-
nescens & Silene virginica I
already possess, though in
limited quantity. ^{I should like more.} The former
will, I hope, flower this season.
Any expense I will most